

# Who were the Plymouth Colonists?

**WARNING: Going to Move Fast**

# Agenda

- Catholicism in Europe
- Martin Luther and the Reformation
- Differences between Catholicism and Protestantism
- King Henry VIII and the Anglican Church
- Rise of Puritanism
- The Plymouth Colonists

# Catholicism in Europe

- Roman Empire
  - Has a history going back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC
  - Wide and expansive much of Europe, going into Asia Minor, Middle East and Northern Africa



# Catholicism in Europe

- Christianity was born in the Roman Empire
- Crucifixion was a Roman Capital Punishment
- Jerusalem was a province of Rome



# Catholicism in Europe

- Christianity in Rome
  - By 64 AD Rome was persecuting Christians under Nero
  - “Catholic Church” as a term arose about 110 AD
  - Constantine established Byzantium as a Christian Roman Empire
  - Roman Empire Split:
    - East (Byzantium and Constantinople)
    - West (Europe and Rome)
  - Western Roman Empire dissolved about 476 AD
  - Eastern Roman Empire (as Byzantine Empire) survived until Muslim attack in 1453.

# Catholicism in Europe

- Holy Roman Empire
  - As Western Roman Empire dissolved, multiple Emperors were crowned
  - Charlemagne was crowned as head of the Holy Roman Empire
  - Crowned in 800 AD by Pope Leo III



# Martin Luther and the Reformation

- Catholicism reigned across Europe
- Martin Luther born in 1483 in Holy Roman Empire (Eisleben)
- Became a Professor of Moral Theology at University of Wittenberg and a Preacher





# Martin Luther and the Reformation

- Became critical of Catholic Church's approach to religion and ritual
  - Indulgences and "Works of Mercy" could secure one from Purgatory
  - The Church allowed the Sale of Indulgences to ensure a place in heaven
  - The Pope also gave official sanctions in exchange for money



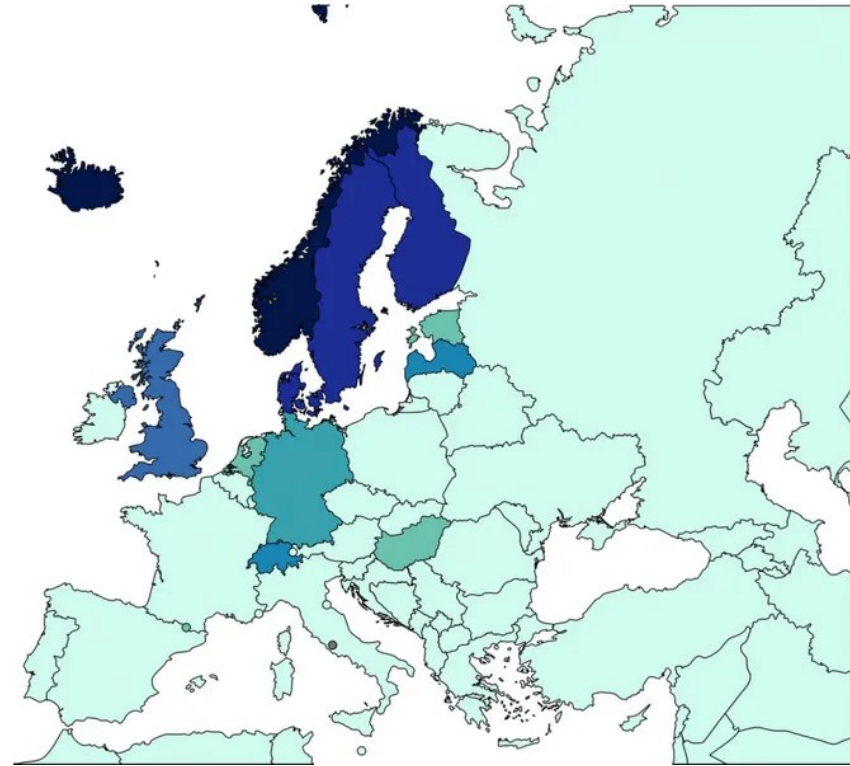
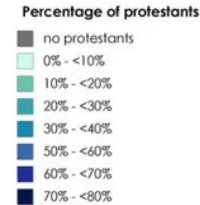
# Martin Luther and the Reformation

- 31 October 1517, he posted the Ninety-five Theses
- Nailed to the Wittenberg Church Door
- Criticized Catholic Church's Policies
- Intended as an academic discussion
- Became a “viral meme” of popular discussion
- Martin Luther died in 1546



# Martin Luther and the Reformation

- The “Reformation” called for reform of the Catholic Church
- Rise of “Protestant” churches in Northern Europe
- New Churches founded
- Growing resentment of the Catholic Church



# Differences between Catholicism and Protestantism

**WARNING: Quick Generalizations To Emphasize Important Points**

- **The People are the Church** – don't need formal hierarchy to have a church. Don't need a pope or bishops.
- **The People should read their Bibles** – don't need priests to interpret it for them. Should be in local languages
- **Hymns should be sung** – made masses active for the participants, enhanced the spirituality
- **Clerical Marriages** – Priests could Marry



# King Henry VIII and the Anglican Church

- Born in 1491
- Became King of England in 1509
- Wanted to Split from the Catholic Church
- In 1534 he created the Anglican Church (Church of England)
- Embraced a mix of Catholic practices with Protestant Practices
- Doctrine of Protestantism
- Died in 1547



# Rise of Puritanism

- English Protestants who sought to eliminate Catholic practices from Church of England.
- Dissatisfied that the church was not “Reformed” enough (hence Reformation).
- Wanted more reform, more “purification” of the Anglican Church (hence “Puritanism”).
- Movement grew in the 1500’s and 1600’s.



# Rise of Puritanism

- Wanted more purity of worship and doctrine.
- They formed many religious groups that embodied their Puritan ideals.





# Rise of Puritanism

- Puritans embraced Covenant Theology:
  - Redemption – Being saved by embracing Christ ...
  - Works – ... and living in accordance with God's Laws ...
  - Grace - ... results in Eternal Life in Heaven
- Puritans called for the separation of the State from its religion
- Not popular with Absolutist Kings and Queens
- Believed in the formation of “gathered churches”



# The Plymouth Colonists

- Lived throughout England originally
- The Plymouth settlers were mostly “Brownist” Puritans (Pilgrims)
- Brownists named after Robert Browne
- Called for creating separatist congregations
- They wanted to split from the Anglican Church

# The Plymouth Colonists

- Act of Uniformity 1559 made it illegal to not attend official Church of England services
- The Seditious Sectaries Act 1592 aimed at outlawing them
- In England, their congregation was being persecuted:
  - Some were hanged for sedition just for selling Browne's writings
  - people imprisoned
  - having property seized.
- King Charles I reign was known as the “Eleven Years Tyranny”

# The Plymouth Colonists



10/30/2024 The Embarkation of the Pilgrims (1857) by American painter Robert Walter Weir

# The Plymouth Colonists

- The Pilgrims planned to separate and go to Newfoundland, Canada
- Didn't work out
- They fled persecution in England by going to Amsterdam in 1608
- Lived there for 12 years
- Their community in Holland was dissolving
- Got a patent to get land in North America in 1619
- Eventually hired the Mayflower to take them to America in 1620

# The End

Now you know a bit more about the early Plymouth Settlers and why they took the arduous journey and dangerous living conditions to live in North America

**THANK YOU!**